

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Board Members

From: Parks Committee: Co-Chairs, J. Hellmann and V. Mimoni

Date: February 7, 2008

Re: John Golden/Crocheron Park Ball fields

The CB11 Parks Committee met on Monday, January 28, 2008 to discuss and recommend courses of action regarding the use of the subject facility. Committee members in attendance were J. Hellmann and V. Mimoni, Co-Chairs, P. DiBenedetto, J. Colasante, H. Euler, R. Giusetti, C. Haider, L. James, G. Karahalos, M. Meer, C. Scherer and F. Skala. Representatives of the of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) attending the meeting were Janice Melnick, Parks Administrator and Michael Agnello, Park and Recreation Manager.

Mr. M. Meer stated that Holy Cross High School busses in football teams to the ball fields at John Golden Park for practice every afternoon during the football season. This use of the field damages the turf resulting in soil erosion, dusty topsoil when dry and muddy conditions following rainfall. Other users of the park are confined to nearby Park areas, where the close proximity of different activities by various age groups creates safety hazards. He pointed out that groups of more than 20 require a permit to use the ball fields and that permits are not issued for practice sessions.

The DPR representatives said that Holy Cross has permits to use the fields three days per week and on Saturday for games. It is DPR policy to issue permits for practice when fields are available. DPR will request Holy Cross to limit their use of the ball fields to permitted times only. Holy Cross has offered to rehabilitate the fields after their seasonal use, which DPR will monitor. It was noted that there is a need for additional ball fields in CB11, but budgetary limitations constrain land acquisition.

The committee suggested that the DPR (1) review their permitting procedures to allow equal access for all potential users of the park facilities to the extent possible, (2) enforce permit conditions, and (3) solicit the restoration of the parks by permitted users. As a result of the discussions the committee proposes that the formation of citizen park support groups be encouraged.